

Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2001

Communication Arts
Released Items
Scoring Guide
Grade 7

**Missouri Communication Arts Scoring Guide
2001 Operational Test
Grade 7**

Session: 1
Item No.: 14
Page No.: 15
Content Standard(s): 3, 5
Process Standard(s): 3.5

Item 14

There are several mysteries about the Money Pit that remain unsolved. Identify two of them using details and/or examples from the article.

Example of a top score-point response

1. Who constructed the confusing maze of tunnels under the earth?
2. Is there actual buried treasure, or something else like Shakespeare's writings?

Other possible responses

- Are there other stones with clues?
- When was the Money Pit constructed?
- How was it constructed?

Score Points

- 2 points The response includes two unsolved mysteries related to the Money Pit.
- 1 point The response includes only one unsolved mystery related to the Money Pit.
- 0 points Other

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Session: 1
Item No.: 15
Page No.: 15
Content Standard(s): 3, 5
Process Standard(s): 1.6

Item 15

Explain why the shaft on Oak Island has been given the nickname “the Money Pit.” Use details and/or examples from the article to support your explanation.

Examples of top score-point responses

- It is a deep hole in the ground and people think that there is some kind of treasure at the bottom of it, like Captain Kidd’s buried treasure, or the original Shakespeare plays that might have been written by someone else.
- People have invested a lot of money over the years to find the treasure, but have not struck gold! They are still looking.
- People say that pirates cruised the area and buried their treasure. They have been trying to find hidden treasures in this “money pit” for hundreds of years.

Score Points

- 2 points The response includes a reasonable explanation of why the shaft has come to be called the “Money Pit” and uses details and/or examples from the article as support.
- 1 point The response includes a reasonable text-based explanation, but is overly general or simplistic.
- 0 points Other

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Session:	1
Item No.:	16
Page No.:	16
Content Standard(s):	3, 5
Process Standard(s):	3.6

Item 16

Explain how Daniel McGinnis's approach to finding the treasure is different from Triton Alliance Ltd.'s approach. Use details and/or examples from the article to support your explanation.

Example of a top score-point response

Their methods are totally different because Daniel McGinnis just brought a few friends and worked with hand tools, but Triton Alliance is spending ten million dollars and digging an "enormous" hole.

Score Points

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 2 points | The response includes a reasonable explanation of the difference in approaches and uses details and/or examples from the article as support. |
| 1 point | The response includes a reasonable text-based explanation, but is overly general or simplistic. |
| 0 points | Other |

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Session: 1
Item No.: 17
Page No.: 16
Content Standard(s): 3, 5
Process Standard(s): 3.8

Item 17

According to the article, Triton Alliance Ltd. is spending ten million dollars to dig an enormous hole at the site of the Money Pit. Are the possible benefits to Triton Alliance Ltd. worth spending that amount of money? Explain why or why not. Use details and/or examples from the article to support your answer.

Examples of top score-point responses

- Yes, it is a good way to spend the money. People have been wondering about the Money Pit for over two hundred years and will probably keep wondering about it for another two hundred unless someone figures out the mystery. The treasure will probably be worth more than ten million if they find it.
- No way! There are people starving in the world and people without homes. It's a ridiculous waste of money to spend millions of dollars on finding so-called buried treasure. For all we know, the whole thing is a hoax and nothing valuable is buried there!

Score Points

- 2 points The response includes a reasonable explanation of why the expense is justified or not and uses details and/or examples from the article as support.
- 1 point The response includes a reasonable text-based explanation, but is overly general or simplistic.
- 0 points Other

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**Writing Prompt
Session 2**

4 Points

The paper:

- Has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- Contains a strong controlling idea.
- Progresses in a logical order.
- Uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, pronouns, parallel structure) between and/or within paragraphs.
- Clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- Uses precise and vivid language.
- Contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- Effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice).
- Clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- Contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

3 Points

The paper:

- Has a beginning, middle, and end.
- Uses paragraphing.
- Contains a controlling idea.
- Generally progresses in a logical order.
- May use cohesive devices.
- Addresses the topic and uses relevant details/examples.
- Uses language that is usually precise.
- Contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure.
- Uses writing techniques.
- Shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- May contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

2 Points

The paper:

- Has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- Shows evidence of paragraphing.
- Contains some sense of direction, but may lack focus.
- May not progress in a logical order.
- At times seems awkward and lacks cohesion.
- Addresses the topic, but may contain some details that are not relevant.
- May use imprecise language.
- Contains sentences that are generally clear, but lack variety in structure.
- May use writing techniques.
- Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- Contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

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1 Point

The paper:

- May lack evidence of a beginning, middle, and/or end.
- May lack evidence of paragraphing.
- Is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- Does not progress in a logical order, and may digress to unrelated topics.
- Is awkward and lacks cohesion.
- May address the topic, but lacks details.
- Uses imprecise language.
- Contains sentences that are unclear and lack variety in structure.
- Does not use writing techniques.
- Shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- Contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.